

TRANSMITTAL FORM

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First Named Inventor Gordon F. Grigor
Group Art Unit 2774
Examiner Name Kevin Nguyen
Attorney Docket Number ATI980044 (0100.01117)

- Fee Transmittal Form
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- Amendment / Response
 - After Final
 - Affidavits/declaration(s)
- Extension of Time Request
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- Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application
 - Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

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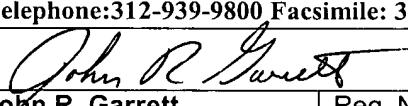
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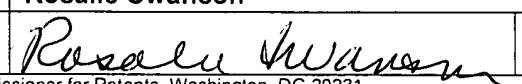
Remarks

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PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant: Gordon F. Grigor et. al.

Serial No: 09/032,863

Filing Date: 3/02/98

Examiner: K. Nguyen

Art Group: 2774

Docket No: 0100.01117

Technology Center 2600

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONFIGURING MULTIPLE DISPLAYS
ASSOCIATED WITH A COMPUTING SYSTEM

December 20, 2000

Box Non-fee Amendment
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Rosalie Swanson
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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

This communication is in response to the Office Action of September 25, 2000.

In the present application, Claims 14, 17-19, 21-24, 29-33 and 38-48 are pending.

In the September 25, 2000 Office Action, the Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Nolan et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,049,316). The Examiner has stated that Nolan et al. teaches a video graphics processing circuit 50 as shown in FIGs. 5 and 6 which includes the display driver is typically produced by the manufacturer of the graphics chip or card. Different display drivers are used for different operating systems and the Examiner cites in Nolan the LCD controller 62 to drive display LCD 22 and VSYNC timer 76, driver 77, DAC 58 to drive display CRT 24. The Examiner then goes on to describe operation of a host interface 70 and further to describe configurations of computer systems for CRT monitors by graphics display driver software.

Nolan et al. is directed to a PC with multiple video display refresh rate configurations using active and default registers. In particular, Nolan et al. is directed to plug and play monitors and auto configuration thereof. FIG. 6 of Nolan et al. clearly shows the Nolan et al. system and the method of operation is clearly set forth in FIGs. 9, 10 and 11 of Nolan.

The present application at Claims 14, 24, 33 and 42 are independent claims. Each of these independent claims has the elements of the present invention which include a plurality of display controllers on a single videographics card, a plurality of drivers, a memory, wherein at least a portion of the memory is screen memory, the screen memory having a plurality of screen memory portions, each of the plurality of screen memory portions storing separate display data, a coupling module and a coupling controller. The coupling controller receives display preferences and determines whether the display preferences can be fulfilled in observance of configuration properties. When the display preferences can be fulfilled, the coupling controller provides configuration requirements to the coupling module. The coupling module, based on the configuration requirements, operably couples at least one of the plurality of display controllers with at least a portion of the screen memory and with at least one display. A respective display driver of the plurality of the drivers writes respective separate display data to a respective one of the plurality of screen memory portions. Display data is retrieved from the at least one portion of the screen memory for the associated display. A coupling controller provides reconfiguration requirements to the coupling module when the display preferences cannot be fulfilled but a current configuration of the plurality of display controllers to the at least one display can be reconfigured such that the display preferences can be fulfilled while maintaining effective configuration of the current configuration. FIG. 1 of the drawings of the present application clearly shows the coupling controller 26 being connected to the coupling module 28. The coupling module 28 clearly shows the selectability of connecting display controllers 32, 34, 36 to the displays 18, 20, 22. The coupling module is also coupled to the screen memory 38. Clearly, the elements of the coupling controller, coupling module and utilization of the screen memory as shown in FIG. 1, for example, of the present application, is not depicted nor suggested by Nolan et al.

35 U.S.C. §102 that an element by element comparison between the cited prior art and the claims of the application. The Examiner has made no such comparison on an element by element basis between the elements of each of the independent claims of the present application and the disclosure of Nolan et al. For the reasons set forth above, the

Applicant has shown that the claims of the present application are not anticipated by Nolan et al. However, since the Examiner has not supplied the element by element comparison, Applicant is unable to specifically address the cases on which the Examiner has cited Nolan et al. as anticipating the present invention. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to further clarify the rejection of the claims of the present application.

The dependent claims of the present application include all limitations of the independent claims upon which they depend, and include further patentable subject matter. For the reasons set forth above, these claims, along with the independent claims of the present application are believed to be allowable over the cited prior art. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection of all claims under 35 U.S.C. §102.

The prior art made a record and not relied upon is considered to be of general interest only. This application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action at an early date is earnestly solicited.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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